

# Summary of the Town of Hamden Proposed Charter Revisions

The Hamden Charter revision process took place over two commissions between January 2020 and August 2022. This document provides an overview of the proposed changes. A comprehensive brochure will be distributed with the ballot and is available on the Hamden website and at Hamden Government Center.



## GOVERNANCE

- Increase Mayor and Town Clerk Term to four (4) years starting in 2025
- Residence Requirement for Elective and Appointive Office
- Clarification of the succession plan in the event of a vacancies of the Mayor
- Clarification of Reapportionment Process (for LD)
- Rule for Defining Habitual Absence for removal from elected or appointed office
- Define and establish Mayor's quarterly reporting of all contracts to the Legislative Council
- Defines "Emergency Powers" as a public health or civil preparedness emergency, enhances notice requirements, and procedures for declared public emergency appropriations and expenditures, emergency meetings of the Legislative Council and emergency orders, ordinances, and measures



## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- Establishes "public interest" standard for board/commissions as the foundation for public accountability
- Clarifies role of policy and administrative boards
- Establishes requirements regarding hybrid and public access
- Dept. Heads aligned must notify board/commission of civilian complaints received
- Required frequency of meetings; allowance for cancellations; lack of quorum
- Document destruction must be approved by board/commission before request goes to Mayor
- Public comment before each meeting and before votes when new information has been introduced
- Establishes member term limit of 12 years after December 2023
- Adds 2 Youth Representatives
- Allows for LC to require District Representation Across Commissions
- Many procedural reforms, including the appointment process to eliminate the current level of vacancies on boards and commissions.
- Establishes that boards and commissions should reflect the broad diversity of Hamden's people and neighborhoods
- Expands the Police Commission and Library Board to 9 members, based on council districts
- Improved process for recruitment and filling of vacant positions
- Added alternate (now 2) to Civil Service Commission
- Required training for Board of Ethics and Library Board members
- Creates a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission and allows for the creation of an Equity Fund



## POLICE COMMISSION

- Does not change but rather spells out functions and purposes of the Commission
- Permits the Police Commission to function as a Civilian Review Board with the authority to issue subpoenas, if so designated by Legislative Council
- Acknowledge dual role as Traffic Authority as required by State law
- Establishes a Professional Services Line Item
- Increase Commission Membership to 9 and Ensure District Representation
- Diversifies qualifications, including transportation expertise, social worker, and community advocates
- Commissioner Training Requirements and Adherence to Best Practices
- Residency Incentives for Police Hiring



## BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY

- Creation of a Finance Commission
- Requires monthly departmental reporting on overtime
- Creation of a Budget Liaison
- Alignment of General Fund and Capital Budgets: Budget Reform, including enhanced disclosure requirements pertaining to long-term expenditures, comparative data, contract driven expenditures, the accuracy of revenue projection



## EQUITY, CLARIFICATIONS, TERMS OF TRADE

- Revision to Preamble to include acknowledge of the Sachemdom of the Quinnipiac Peoples
- Changes of title of Community Services to Health and Human Services updates description